

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 19-32 are pending. Of those claims, claims 1, 19, 26 and 28 remain independent.

By the Amendment herewith, Applicant clarifies the punctuation and spelling in claim 28. Applicant also clarifies the grammar in claim 27. These clarifications are not made for reasons related to patentability and the full range of equivalents of the claim elements should remain intact.

In the outstanding non-final Office Action, claims 1-9, 19-26 and 28-32 are rejected under 35 USC Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Katayama (US 5,699,108). Dependent claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katayama in view of Ishikawa (US 6,549,650). Dependent claim 27 is rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katayama in view of Orimoto (US 7,102,686). Lastly, dependent claims 29-32 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa and Katayama, and further in view of Inaba (US 5,778,268).

The foregoing rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

As noted above, all independent claims are rejected as being anticipated by Katayama. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's analysis for at least the following reasons. Katayama discloses photography with the two cameras. The Examiner refers to column 7, lines 10-41 of Katayama in the afore-referenced anticipation rejection. Applicant respectfully notes, however, that therein it is explained that a microprocessor calculates image pickup conditions and the image pickup conditions are displayed in a finder screen. The microprocessor receives rotational signals from rotational angle encoders and calculates convergence angles. Baseline length is calculated from signals received from position information detection means. The microprocessor calculates also distance to the gazing point.

Thus, according to Katayama, the baseline length and the convergence angles can be freely and independently varied to obtain desired photography mode. There is no linkage from any certain baseline length value to any certain convergence angle.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1 recites an advantageous feature in which "altering mutual distance between the cameras is configured to cause turning of the cameras relative to each other".

Similarly, independent claim 19 recites, in part, "adjusting a mutual position of the cameras to correspond to the determined imaging mode, and wherein the adjusting of the mutual position comprises causing turning of the cameras relative to each other by altering mutual distance between the cameras, if the mutual position of the cameras do not correspond to the determined imaging mode".

Independent claim 26 recites, in part, "wherein the altering is configured such that adjusting the distance between the cameras is configured to cause turning of the cameras relative to each other."

Independent claim 28 also recites, in part, "adjusting a mutual position of a camera module comprising at least two cameras to correspond to a determined imaging mode, and wherein the adjusting of the mutual position comprises causing turning of the cameras relative to each other by altering the mutual distance between the cameras, if the mutual position of the cameras do not correspond to the determined imaging mode."

Such recited features are not disclosed in, or even suggested by, Katayama, as explained above.

By having a structure in which "*altering mutual distance between the cameras is configured to cause turning of the cameras relative to each other*", the end user is not necessarily required to carry out any operations at all, for example, to adjust the image angle of the cameras (see page 21, lines 21-29 of Applicant's specification). Such an advantageous effect is not obtained in Katayama, in which all settings are freely adjustable.

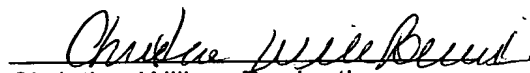
Accordingly, independent claims 1, 19, 26 and 28 are patentable in view of Katayama. Accordingly, all remaining dependent claims also are patentable at least in view of their dependency from an allowable independent claim.


For completion, it is respectfully noted that the addition of Ishikawa, Orimoto, and/or Inaba, which were additionally cited in the rejection of Applicant's dependent claims does not cure the shortcoming of Katayama, and thus does not disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed subject matter.

All issues having been addressed, the subject application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections. A Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

A call to the undersigned would be appreciated should the Examiner have any questions.

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